



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Mount Rushmore
National Memorial
13000 Highway 244,
Building 31, Suite 1
Keystone, SD 57751

605-574-3115 phone
www.nps.gov/moru

Mount Rushmore National Memorial News Release

Release Date: November 2, 2012

Contact: Maureen McGee-Ballinger, maureen_mcgee-ballinger@nps.gov 605-574-3115

Digital Lesson Plans Launched

KEYSTONE, SD: Mount Rushmore announces the launch of online curricula based lesson plans adhering to the nationally recognized Common Core State Standards Initiative. Teachers, parents and anyone interested in an educational challenge will have access to complete lesson plans utilizing 3D models created through an innovative laser scanning process.

In November of 2011 four Geometry, Math, and Art teachers from the Hill City and Custer County School Districts collaborated with the National Park Service Interpretation and Education Rangers and CyArk representatives to create 10 interdisciplinary K-12 lesson plans for educators, parents, students, and the general public. These plans are available with a free CyArk Professional Account. The lesson plans, numbered 17– 26 in the CyArk lesson plan database at <http://archive.cyark.org/education-lesson-plans>, feature hands-on and computer based activities aligned with the Common Core State Standards Initiative. Everything needed to teach a lesson is available for download in a compressed folder. Teacher background, activity preparation information, slideshows, and student sheets are all included.

Complete Art and Geometry curriculum strains were created using the laser scans and high definition 2 dimensional images of Mount Rushmore National Memorial. The curriculum offers an interdisciplinary learning progression from Kindergarten through 12th grade. Lesson plans are linked through both the National Park Service and the CyArk websites.

"We are very excited to open up a new chapter in educational opportunities for our nation's students," said Maureen McGee-Ballinger, Chief of Interpretation and Education at Mount Rushmore National Memorial.

Within the curricula, the unique relationship between Math and Art become apparent. A Kindergarten student begins to learn the shapes identifying them within the sculpture and elsewhere in their world. As students progress to the next grade they learn to find the 2 and 3 dimensional areas of shapes and ultimately as a high school Geometry student, they are able to separate the sculpture into a series of 3D shapes eventually determining the mass and weight of Mount Rushmore.

Lesson plans in Art develop high school students' knowledge of scale and proportion to make their own version of Mount Rushmore in any solid medium. That project is enhanced with work on English skills delivering a persuasive paper defending their selection of images placed on their Mount Rushmore.

"This has been a very exciting project for Mount Rushmore National Memorial, the National Park Service, CyArk and our national and international audiences," said Cheryl Schreier. "One of the areas the project specifically addresses is the National Park Service's *A Call to Action*, advancing our education mission into the next century which includes the goal to *Go Digital* – transforming the National Park Service experience to offer rich, interactive, up-to-date content for our park."

Members of the curricula creation team from the Hill City School District were Geometry and Math teachers Ken Raga and Rick Hamilton, K -12 Art teacher Lori Jones and Custer County School District Geometry teacher Kathy Bradeen. "We thank these educators and their districts for allowing them to share their expertise," stated Superintendent Schreier. CyArk Production Supervisors Justin Barton and Taline Ayanyan and National Park Service Interpretive and Education staff members, Maureen McGee-Ballinger, Blaine Kortemeyer, and Amy Bracewell were also part of the creation team.

The inspiration of our nation's National Park Sites continues to help make learning fun. For further information regarding educational opportunities at Mount Rushmore National Memorial, please visit our website at www.nps.gov/moru.

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About the National Park Service. More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 398 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at www.nps.gov.